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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

NIC 00627-86
6 February 1986

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

FROM: Robert D. Vickers, Jr.
National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT: CPPG Meeting on Haiti

1. On 6 February 1986, [REDACTED] I attended a CPPG meeting on Haiti, chaired by Don Fortier, Deputy Assistant to the President for Policy Development/NSC. I gave a brief intelligence overview which made the following points:

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- The situation was currently quiet, but Carnival is scheduled to begin tomorrow, and Duvalier probably is concerned the situation could get out of hand. If he attempts to prevent large-scale celebrations, it could lead to violence, but conversely, the traditional boisterous crowds could resort to rioting.
- Thus, Duvalier appears to be preparing for a possible hasty departure, and is seeking potential asylum abroad.
- The opposition remains weak and disorganized, and the most likely successor to Duvalier, should he depart soon, is a military junta with some possible civilian participation.
- Duvalier's departure is likely to touch off widespread celebrations, with some looting and other indiscriminate violence. In addition, there may be some fighting among the Army and militia (VSN) over who would succeed Duvalier.
- We have no evidence that Cuba is preparing to send trained Haitian exile forces into the country should prolonged chaos result, but the possibility cannot be excluded.

2. Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, followed with a diplomatic status report:

- The Haitian Foreign Minister has asked the United States to help arrange asylum for Duvalier, and has requested a US plane to flee the country.

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- US demarches to Francophone countries about possible asylum had been turned down by all but Togo. France still has not responded but will do so later today.
- The US fears that Duvalier may leave precipitously on his own as early as tonight, before we can arrange asylum or make contacts about a successor government.
- We are reluctant to begin organizing a successor government until we are sure if and when Duvalier will leave.
- Meanwhile, we have to be prepared for a hasty use of military force to protect American lives and help keep order.

3. General Moellering from the JCS then spoke about the status of military contingency planning:

- He said we would need 4 to 7 days to plan and mobilize a large occupation force of several active divisions and reserve civil affairs units.
- A smaller evacuation force of amphibious ships and transport aircraft could be sent more quickly if unopposed by armed resistance.
- Abrams and I responded that the situation was not like the Dominican Republic, and that we did not anticipate that a large, well-armed force would oppose a US military presence, particularly for evacuation purposes. Abrams added that we might be requested to intervene by the Haitian Army, and that we may do so in conjunction with the French.

4. It was decided that:

- We would attempt to prevent Duvalier's leaving--should he chose to do so--until we could help arrange a transition government.
- If France turns Duvalier's request for asylum down, we would ask President Reagan about letting him come here, but this was not a preferred option.

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- We would provide a plane if necessary, but hopefully not to bring him to the United States.
- We would contact the French about a possible joint evacuation/peacekeeping force, which hopefully would be of minimal size.



Robert D. Vickers

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